



**SCHOOL BUS, CLASS 7D, AND CLASS 7D½ SCHOOL PUPIL TRANSPORT  
VEHICLES  
VISION POLICY STATEMENT  
as of June 16, 1998**

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**The following standards are applicable to all persons applying for a SCHOOL BUS OPERATOR CERTIFICATE OR CLASS 7D OR 7D½ SCHOOL PUPIL TRANSPORT VEHICLE learner's permit or license.**

For the purpose of these standards, "physician" is defined as "a medical doctor who is licensed to practice in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts."

The Registrar, or his designee, may require such additional evidence of the applicant or licensee's medical qualification criteria as he deems appropriate, or may modify these standards as an individual case may require.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The Registry's vision standards are adopted in the context of the following information:

20/20 is excellent visual acuity and 20/200 is legally blind. 20/40 vision is better than 20/50 vision, 20/50 is better than 20/60, 20/60 is better than 20/70, and so on.

The term "at least 20/40," as used in the visual acuity standards means 20/40 or better - 20/40, 20/30, or 20/20 visual acuity would all be acceptable for an unrestricted license. 20/50 or 20/60 would not be acceptable.

180 degrees horizontal peripheral field of vision is a full field of vision. 170 degrees is better than 160 degrees, 160 degrees is better than 150 degrees, and so on.

The term "not less than 120 degrees," as used in the horizontal peripheral field of vision standard means 120 degrees or more- 120 degrees, 130 degrees, or 140 degrees horizontal peripheral field of vision would all be acceptable. 115 degrees or 110 degrees would not be acceptable.

Any time an applicant or licensee uses glasses or contact lenses to meet any of the vision standards, a "B" restriction (corrective lenses) must be put on the license.

## **I. THE VISION STANDARDS:**

If the applicant cannot meet the following standards, a license is not possible:

### **A. Visual acuity and horizontal peripheral field of vision standard:**

**At least 20/40 distant visual acuity (Snellen) in each eye, with or without corrective lenses, and not less than 120 degrees combined horizontal peripheral field of vision.**

Eligible for a license. A “B” restriction (corrective lenses) must be put on the license when corrective lenses are used to meet this standard.

Applicants or licensees who use bioptic telescopic lenses are ineligible to receive a school bus certificate, class 7D, or class 7D½ license.

### **B. Color vision standard:**

**The individual must be able to distinguish the colors red, green and amber.**

If the applicant or licensee cannot distinguish the colors red, green, and amber, a license is not possible.

### **C. Vision impairment standard:**

**The individual must not have unresolvable diplopia (double vision which cannot be resolved by wearing an eye patch or other suppressive device).**

If the applicant or licensee has unresolvable diplopia, a license is not possible.

## **II. ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES:**

### **A. The medical examination form must:**

1. be fully completed by the physician and the applicant or licensee; and
2. be one year old or less from the date of the screening; and
3. contain the original signatures of the applicant or licensee and the certifying physician. No photocopies will be accepted.

### **B. Policies applicable to existing school bus operator’s certificates and school pupil transport vehicle licenses:**

An individual who is unable to meet the medical qualification standards contained in the Vision, Epilepsy, Diabetes, and Cardiovascular/Respiratory Disease Policy

Statements of June 16, 1998, but who held a valid school bus operator's certificate or Class 7D or 7D½ school pupil transport vehicle license or learner's permit as of the effective date of such policy statements, shall be eligible to retain or renew such certificate or license, provided:

- (1) he or she satisfies the medical qualification standards in effect immediately prior to the effective date of this policy (which are set forth in Appendix A); and
- (2) he or she provides a certification from his or her physician that, to a reasonable degree of medical certainty, the individual is medically qualified to safely operate a school bus or school pupil transport vehicle, as the case may be and perform the other functions associated with such operation; and
- (3) the Registry has no other cause to believe, based upon the individual's driving history or otherwise, that the individual cannot safely operate such motor vehicle.

## **APPENDIX A**

### **A. Medical Qualifications in effect immediately prior to June 16, 1998 for operators of school buses:**

In order to be eligible for a school bus operator's certificate, a person shall:

- (a) have no loss of foot, leg, hand, or arm or impairment of use of foot, leg, fingers, hand, or arm, or other physical condition or limitation likely to interfere with safe driving;
- (b) have no mental, nervous, organic, or functional disease nor any heart disease likely to interfere with safe driving;
- (c) have no contagious or communicable disease;
- (d) have visual acuity, either without lenses or by correction, of at least 20/40 (Snellen) in one eye and 20/100 in the other eye; form field of vision in the horizontal meridian of not less than a total of 140; reading ability with both eyes together of at least 20/40 corrected; and the ability to distinguish the colors red, green, and yellow. Persons requiring correction by lenses shall wear properly prescribed lenses at all times when operating a school bus;
- (e) have hearing of not less than 10/20 in the better ear, for conversational tones without a hearing aid; and
- (f) not be addicted to the use of narcotics or habit forming drugs, or tranquilizers or stimulants or the excessive use of alcoholic beverages or liquors.

The Registrar of Motor Vehicles, or his designee, may require such evidence of satisfaction of the medical qualification criteria as he deems appropriate.

### **B. Medical Qualifications in effect immediately prior to June 16, 1998 for operators of class 7D and 7D½ school pupil transport vehicles:**

In order to be eligible to operate a class 7D or 7D½ school pupil transport vehicle, an individual must:

- (a) have to ability to hear normal conversational sounds;
- (b) not have a loss of foot, leg, hand, or arm, or other physical defect or limitation likely to interfere with safe driving;
- (c) be free from any mental, nervous, heart, organic, or functional disease likely to interfere with safe driving;
- (d) be free from addiction to use of narcotics, or habit forming drugs, alcoholic beverages or liquors;
- (e) not have a "G" restriction (limit to daylight only) on the driver's license.